

The History of Computing for Learning and Education Project

Mission: *To preserve and interpret documents, artifacts and stories relating to the history of computing in education; to make them accessible and usable by educational and computer leaders, historians, practitioners and the public.*

We have a BIG project in hand. We intend to create a proof-of-concept of a virtual museum that will embody how education transformed between 1970 and 1990, when computers entered classrooms and our lives.

Conventional museums are preserving computer hardware; but the related documents, software and the oral histories are rapidly disappearing. Unless the artifacts and studies are preserved and digitized, subsequent generations will lose decades of seminal research from a critical time.

The HCLE Proof Of Concept will demonstrate and test the Virtual Museum, a Traveling Exhibit, and initiate the Oral History Project. The Proof Of Concept will take about 3 months and cost about \$51,000 for administrative and general operating expenses.

About the Virtual Museum: The HCLE Virtual Museum will encompass a publicly accessible database of over 10,000 documents for researchers. Casual visitors will use a simplified interface of virtual exhibits. Historic software, including games, will operate in an emulation environment.

About the Traveling Exhibit: We will recreate a typical school computer laboratory from circa 1980 that will access the HCLE Virtual Museum allowing visitors to experience the pioneering computing era.

About the Oral History Project: Through interviews and submissions, stories from the era will be collected in words, images, audio, and video. Social media will provide a rich source of content.

What We Have: Thousands of documents are available. Manual scanning of the documents has begun. Limited office and storage space is available. Volunteers and occasional contracts help the work progress.

What We Need: We need to automate the scanning process, curate the collection, design and operate the Virtual Museum and the Traveling Exhibit, reach out to researchers and the public, and hire sufficient staff to coordinate the effort.

This total effort is estimated to require about \$250,000 per quarter, 90% of which is labor for expediting the various projects.

How Long It Will Take: A concurrent effort could complete the bulk of the work within ~2.5 years.

Conclusion: This is a critical time for preserving an important moment in the Information Age.

Please let me know if you have any questions. We look forward to working in partnership on this exciting online history project.